



STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR
PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
CHARLES J. KROGMEIER, DIRECTOR

December 28, 2009

For More Information
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14th Safe Haven Baby

DES MOINES, Iowa—Iowa Department of Human Service officials are using the state's safe haven procedures for the 14th time since the law went into effect seven years ago.

A newborn boy was brought to an Iowa hospital on Dec. 21 shortly after a home delivery. The mother said she did not want the child.

"Our safe haven law has once again achieved the intended results—saving the life of a child," said DHS Director Charles Krogmeier.

Under Iowa's safe haven law, unwanted babies aged 14 days or less may be left at any health facility with no questions asked. The law was approved in the wake of a high-profile case in 2001 involving a teen-aged mother in eastern Iowa who killed her home-delivered newborn.

The latest safe haven child is healthy and was released to the custody of the DHS. The child was placed with a foster family that intends to adopt. A court hearing to terminate parental rights will be held within a month.

As usual in safe haven cases, specific details are being withheld in order to protect the identity of the parents and child.

The first time the law was used in Iowa was March of 2003, when a baby girl was taken to a hospital. In all previous cases, safe haven babies have been successfully adopted.

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